

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. This response amends claims 1, 7, 12, and 17. No claims are added or cancelled. Claims 1-23 remain pending in this application.

In the below remarks, Applicant addresses previous rejections that were made in a final Office Action mailed on December 20, 2007.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-5 and 7-21:

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7-21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chadha (Pub. No. US 2004/0176107, hereinafter Chadha) in view of Logan et al. (US Patent 6,996,402, hereinafter Logan). Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 12, and 17 and respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office Action (pages 8-9) specifically rejects Applicant's previous traverse, which argued that neither Chadha, Logan, nor their combination teach or suggest the features of Applicant's claims 1-5 and 7-21. More specifically, the Office Action states that Chadha's invention can be deployed in wireless networks that include GSM, CDMA, TDMA, UMTS, Bluetooth, IrDA, and IEEE 802.11 (citing paragraph 41). The Office Action goes further to say that "in Newton's Telecom Dictionary, it is noted that a WPAN network can be formed using Bluetooth (*see Non-Patent Literature/Newton's Telecom Dictionary, 'Wireless Personal Area Network' entry*)," and that therefore, under the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim language, a Bluetooth network comprising mobile devices as disclosed by Chadha may be considered a WPAN network.

Applicant first points out that the cited reference, Newton's Telecom Dictionary, has not been provided to Applicant, and therefore Applicant is unable to review the reference and to formulate a responsive argument. Further, the statement "a WPAN network can be formed using Bluetooth" is taken out of context, and may have any of a number of interpretations that are not pertinent to the features of Applicant's claims. Therefore, Applicant is not in a position to address

the Examiner's argument, and respectfully requests that if the argument be repeated, that the above-cited reference be provided.

Further, the Office Action states that "Chadha recites deploying a Bluetooth network to form a WPAN network. Logan et al. also disclose using Bluetooth to form a network." (Office Action, page 9). Applicant disagrees with this characterization, and Applicant is not claiming "deploying a Bluetooth network to form a WPAN" as the Examiner has interpreted Chadha to recite, nor is Applicant claiming "using Bluetooth to form a network," as the Examiner has interpreted Logan to recite. Therefore, Applicant is uncertain how this argument overcomes Applicant's previous traverse, and requests clarification.

Further, Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-21 as follows:

Chadha discloses a position-based task management system in which a wireless device 200 (i.e., a GSM phone) communicates via a network 220 with a Task Management Application 100 or 215, Task Management Engine 110 or 230, and Position/Location Detector 120 or 240 (Figures 1 and 2; paragraphs [0023], [0028]). Position/Location Detector 120, 240 uses a technology to calculate the location of a wireless device, with a list of technologies specified as enhanced observed time difference (EOTD), base station identifier, and cell site/sector identifiers (paragraphs [0026], [0028]). The Task Management Engine 110, 230 obtains position information from Position/Location Detector 120, 240, and based on a database of actions and task reminders maintained by the Task Management Engine 110, 230, triggers reminders/actions to be sent from Task Management Application 100, 215 to the wireless device (paragraph [0026]). Whenever a position-rule needs to be executed, the Task Management Engine 230 passes information to the Task Management Application 215 (paragraph [0031]), so that it can cause the appropriate reminder to be alerted on the user's wireless device and/or carry out a required action on the wireless device (paragraph [0027]). Examples of reminders include, as listed examples, "Remind me to buy item X whenever I pass near store Y" (paragraph [0014]). Chadha discloses that various embodiments may be deployed on wireless networks that include GSM, CDMA, TDMA, UMTS, Bluetooth, IrDA, and IEEE 802.11 (paragraph [0041]).

Logan discloses a network that includes a server 101 connected via the internet 103 to a plurality of electronic devices that employ Bluetooth chips or other radio frequency devices to sense the relative location of devices in the network (Figure 1; col. 3, lines 7-14). Devices in the network may communicate with the network by operating in a long range mode or with each other by operating in a short range mode (Figure 2, col. 5, lines 47-62). The devices may detect and report the position of nearby devices (col. 5, lines 63-66), meaning that some of the devices may act as relay stations for device position and identification information (col. 7, lines 59-61). The server 230 may receive position information from the devices (col. 6, lines 4-10), and may provide alert messages (e.g., to a security guard or to a user) when a position-related rule is satisfied (col. 7, lines 64-67; col. 9, line 38 through col. 10, line 63). RFID technologies may be used to determine when particular objects are within a predetermined range of other objects (col. 6, lines 19-47).

Applicant's claims 1-5 and 7-21 include at least the following features, which distinguish these claims from that which is taught or suggested by Chadha in view of Logan:

Claims 1-5:

“An apparatus for forming a Wireless Personal Area Network (WPAN) from a plurality of Personal Area Network (PAN) devices, comprising:

a location determinator configured to address a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag function of each of said plurality of PAN devices, and to determine a location for each of said plurality of PAN devices using an RFID tag location technique;

a comparator coupled to the determinator and configured to compare said location for each of said plurality of PAN devices with a WPAN association criteria in order to determine an identification of each of said plurality of PAN devices that at least partially satisfy said WPAN criteria; and

a communication link coupled to the comparator configured to transmit, to said plurality of PAN devices that at least partially satisfy said WPAN criteria, said identification of each of said plurality of PAN devices that at least partially satisfy said WPAN criteria in order to form a WPAN.”

Claims 7-21 include similar distinguishing features, and are not listed here for purposes of brevity.

Neither Chadha, Logan nor their combination teach or suggest all the limitations of Applicant's claims 1-5 or 7-21. For example, as discussed above, neither Chadha, Logan nor their combination disclose a method for forming a WPAN as set forth in Applicant's claims 1-5 and 7-21. Further, neither Chadha, Logan nor their combination teach or suggest comparing a location of a PAN device with a WPAN association criteria to determine PAN devices that at least partially satisfy the WPAN association criteria, or transmitting an identification of such PAN devices to the PAN devices, as is claimed in Applicant's claims 1-5 and 7-21.

Accordingly, neither Chadha, Logan nor their combination teach or suggest all the limitations of Applicant's claims 1-5 or 7-21.

Because Chadha and Logan do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, a 35 U.S.C. 103(a) obviousness rejection cannot be sustained. Based on the amendments and the above remarks, Applicant believes that the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-5 and 7-21 be allowed.

Claims 6 and 22-23:

In the Office Action, claims 6 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chadha and Logan, and further in view of Trossen et al. (Pub. No. US 2005/0059410, hereinafter Trossen). Applicant has amended claims 1 and 17, from which claims 6 and 22-23 depend, and respectfully traverses the rejection.

Trossen discloses a system and method for providing differential location to a terminal (Abstract). The system includes a location provider 28 and one or more access points 25, which may be wirelessly coupled to one or more terminals 10 (paragraph [0023]).

As discussed above in conjunction with the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-21, neither Chadha, Logan nor their combination disclose, suggest or motivate the features of Applicant's claims 1 or 17, from which claims 6 and 22-23. Further, Trossen does not make up for the deficiencies in Chadha and Logan, and Trossen also is directed to non-analogous art, for reasons similar to those given above with respect to Chadha and Logan. Because neither Chadha, Logan, Trossen nor their combination teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, and the references are directed to non-analogous art, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be sustained.

Based on the amendments and the above remarks, Applicant believes that the rejection of claims 6 and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 6 and 22-23 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicant's attorney at (480)385-5060.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2019 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrassia Fisher & Lorenz, P.C.

Date February 29, 2008

/SHERRY W. SCHUMM/
Sherry W. Schumm
Reg. No. 39,422
480.385.5060